



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

A History of Louisiana. By ALCÉE FORTIER, Litt. D., Professor in Tulane University of Louisiana, President of the Louisiana Historical Society. In four volumes: I. Early Explorers and the Domination of the French, 1512-1768. II. The Spanish Domination and the Cession to the United States, 1769-1803. III. The American Domination (part 1), 1803-1861. IV. The American Domination (part 11), 1861-1903. (Paris and New York: Manzi, Joyant, and Company. 1904. Pp. xix, 268; xiv, 342; xiii, 272; xiii, 299.)

WITH the possible exception of Texas, Louisiana, with her changing boundaries, has had, in some respects, the most romantic and varied history of any American state. These four handsome volumes contain, in a sense, the story of a region rather than of a commonwealth. Picturesque Spanish explorers were in the country which La Salle afterward styled "Louisiane", as early as 1519, when Alvarez de Pineda is thought by many historians to have discovered the Mississippi — by others, the Mobile. There is no evidence that Jolliet and Marquette had any knowledge of Spanish predecessors on the Mississippi; theirs was as much a discovery as was that of Columbus, who had been preceded upon our continent nearly five centuries by Norwegian vikings from Iceland. Dr. Fortier concedes La Salle's discovery of the Ohio in 1671, but discredits the oft-repeated story of his entering the Mississippi prior to Jolliet and Marquette. La Salle's ill-fated career is but briefly treated in the work before us, the history of Louisiana proper being considered as commencing with the enduring settlement of Iberville, Bienville, and Sauvole at Biloxi (1699). These three sons of Charles le Moyne firmly planted the new colony, and may well be regarded as the fathers of Louisiana. Iberville and Sauvole soon passing away, Bienville remained until 1743 as the principal historical figure. Others occasionally occupied the post of governor; but Bienville, as devoted and disinterested as Champlain, was throughout this long period the chief actor, and powerfully and beneficently influenced the colony. During his long supremacy the wide-stretching region of Louisiana was the scene of many fruitful and stirring events. His successor, Marquis de Vaudreuil — "le grand marquis" — was much of the time engaged in disputes with his colleagues; nevertheless considerable progress was made under his administration, best of all being the introduction of the sugar-cane (1751), "one of the greatest benefits ever rendered Louisiana". Two years later he was succeeded by Kerlérec, whom our author does not think dishonest, although his contemporaries, with whom this choleric person frequently quarreled, stoutly declared that he "had not come to the colony for a change of air". New Orleans and its neighboring settlements, although far from the seat of decisive military operations, were indirectly much affected by the French and Indian War. The neighboring tribes were in a constant state of ferment, and could only be kept

from laying their hands on the whites by continual showers of presents and by the fostering of tribal jealousies, which latter duty Kerlérec appears to have performed with some skill ; while threatened English attacks frequently racked the nerves of the colonists.

The loss of Canada induced Louis XV, to whom Louisiana had been a considerable expense, to dispose of the latter province to Spain by the secret treaty of Fontainebleau, November 3, 1762. Louisianians were much incensed when they learned in the spring of 1764 that they had been handed over to a new master ; but it was two years later before the Spanish governor, Don Antonio de Ulloa, arrived at New Orleans. Ulloa managed the people badly, and by arbitrary conduct aroused intense opposition to Spanish authority. The French court was passionately appealed to by the New Orleans people to take them back again ; and when this petition was ignored, the obnoxious governor was packed on board of a vessel (November 1, 1768) and ordered out of the country, a proceeding in which were involved "some of the most influential men in the colony". The conspiracy aroused the Spanish monarch, and the following summer there arrived at New Orleans Don Alejandro O'Reilly as governor and captain-general of the province, backed by a frigate and twenty-three transports, with three thousand soldiers. The chiefs of the revolution were arrested, several of them shot, and others confined in the castle at Havana.

Under Ulloa French political methods had been retained, but O'Reilly introduced Spanish law and governmental modes, and instituted a *cabildo*. Execrated by the colonists because of his unnecessarily harsh treatment of the revolutionists of 1768, although otherwise a man of some judgment, "Bloody O'Reilly" was succeeded by the mild and humane Unzaga (1770), who soothed the Creoles into a fair measure of contentment with Spanish rule. He was followed (1777) by the gallant and indefatigable Galvez, who, in due course, made way (1785) for Miró, who, misled by the scheming Wilkinson — whose unsavory record our author does not shield, despite the fact that some of Wilkinson's descendants are fellow-residents of New Orleans — entertained hopes of separating the trans-Alleghenians of Kentucky and Tennessee from the Federal Union. Miró and his "business like, vigilant, and judicious" successor, Carondelet (1791), figure largely in our diplomatic history because of their connection with the disputed navigation of the Mississippi and the temporary disaffection of the West. Professor Turner's ample study of the American, French, and Spanish documents in the case is not cited by our author, and apparently has not been examined, there being a rather inadequate treatment of this episode, which was so full of menace for the Union by threatening its early westward expansion. This was a period abounding also in Indian disturbances and other interesting events — a threatened attack from the British in Canada, an uprising of the slaves (1795), the cession of the Natchez district to the United States (1797), and an epidemic at New Orleans. With the coming of the impecunious but kind and affable Governor

Gayoso de Lemos (1797), friction arose with the United States because of the governor's arbitrary regulations regarding American commerce through the port of New Orleans; but he died after two years in office, and the affair had meanwhile blown over.

Before the appointment of a new governor, Spain, under moral pressure from Napoleon, retroceded Louisiana to France by the secret treaty of San Ildefonso, October 1, 1800. The story is familiar, in the present centennial period, of the first consul's ambition to found another New France in North America, of the thwarting of this disturbing project by his threatened war with England, of his sale of Louisiana to the United States, the picturesque transfers at New Orleans and St. Louis, the exploration of the trans-Mississippi by Lewis and Clark, and the speedy settlement of the country by American enterprise. With the division of Upper Louisiana into territories of the United States, the story of Louisiana is thereafter confined practically to the present boundaries of the commonwealth, but still abounds in notable incidents. Dr. Fortier devotes much space to the somewhat troublous process of adapting the commonwealth to American political methods, which were quite foreign to Creole habits if not taste. The Burr conspiracy has a considerable claim upon his attention, also the stirring incidents of the War of 1812; the Mexican War, which closely affected Louisiana interests, receives slighter notice; but the War of Secession is waged through three chapters of detail, and the dark period of Reconstruction is accorded similar space. Referring to the discontinuance of the use of the Federal Army for the purpose of upholding state governments (1877), and of President Hayes's subsequent congratulatory message to Congress on the "significant and encouraging" results of the hands-off policy, the author says: "The fortunate situation in the Southern States mentioned by the President might have been obtained eight years sooner if the people had been allowed their constitutional right of self-government" (IV, 194-195).

Since the resumption of constitutional government, the progress of the state has been rapid and uninterrupted, the concluding chapters being devoted to the pleasing story of material development, and to the growth of culture as exhibited in her literary productivity (chiefly in French), and her large and numerous educational institutions. The final paragraph foreshadows the celebration of the centennial of the treaty of cession of Louisiana to the United States, in December, 1903, when "Thanks will be rendered to the Almighty for the blessings enjoyed by the millions living in the vast country watered by the great Mississippi and its tributaries, to which the heroic La Salle gave the immortal name of 'Louisiane'".

This latest history of Louisiana comes to us in four tall octavo volumes handsomely bound in red morocco backs and corners, with marbled paper sides and gilt tops, and printed on heavy deckle-edged paper. It contains ninety-six photogravure illustrations by Goupil and Company, among which are "86 contemporary portraits from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries, among them being many which have

never before been reproduced and were not known to exist". Either in the text or in the notes — which latter are grouped at the end of each volume, instead of being given as foot-notes, where they could easily be consulted — there are included "the original text of all the treaties which concerned Louisiana, France, Spain, and the United States"; the portraits include "everyone connected officially with the transfer, including Jefferson (painted in 1803); Bonaparte (painted in 1803); Robert Livingston and James Monroe, the American ministers; Barbé-Marbois, Decrès, and Talleyrand, the French ministers; Laussat, the French colonial prefect, who actually made the transfer at New Orleans, December 20, 1803; and James Wilkinson and W. C. C. Claiborne, who received the territory in the name of the United States".

All this array is sufficiently attractive, and will doubtless secure buyers; but we must confess to a certain disappointment with the text. In others of Dr. Fortier's writings concerning Louisiana and its people we have found an easy, flowing, illuminating style, which may often be deemed charming. The present work indicates either haste — despite the fact that the publishers assure us that it has been three years in preparation — or a misapprehension of the historical proprieties. There was an opportunity here for a safe middle course between the dry recitation of Martin and the pyrotechnics of Gayarré; and this is what we might naturally have expected of the author of *Louisiana Studies*. Instead, we have a rather hard and formal manner, seldom exhibiting the author's natural grace of diction and, worst of all, almost wholly lacking in what is called "atmosphere". Throughout his long recital of political and military events our author in few places, and then but briefly, seeks to lift the curtain upon life and manners among his historic Louisianians — the very sort of thing which Dr. Fortier is surely capable of doing, and for which his admirers will first search through these four superbly-appointed volumes. It would seem as though the gifted president of the Louisiana Historical Society feared lest his imagination, if given rein, might play him tricks in this new field of study, and hence had best be curbed and blinded.

We do not find our author tripping seriously in his sturdy plodding through the wilderness of facts. He appears to have observed his sources to good purpose; but fewer long and often tedious citations from original documents and from the pages of his predecessors Martin and Gayarré, and a freer presentation of his own views, together with a better sense of differentiation between matter desirable for text and that only suitable for notes or an appendix, would have resulted in a more acceptable piece of book-making. As we have already intimated, mechanically and from the point of view of dignified and appropriate illustration, the volumes are well worthy of the centennial of the Louisiana purchase.

R. G. THWAITES.